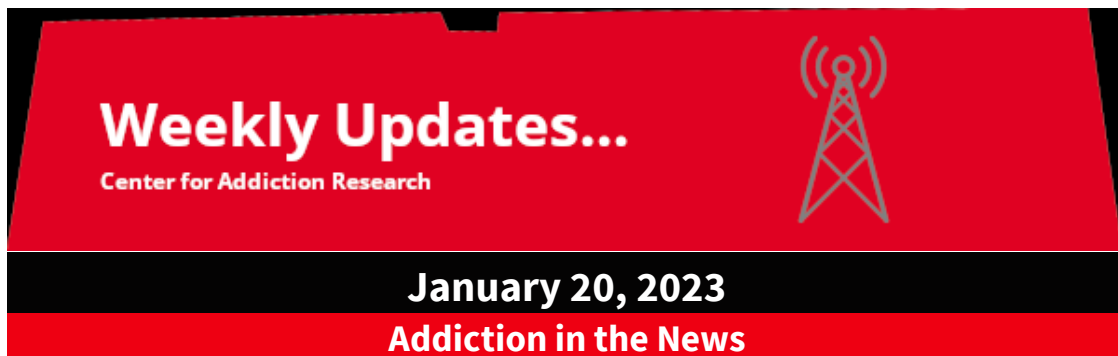


UC CAR Weekly Newsletter 1.20.2023

Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the Center for Addiction Research! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from CAR members. Please email Jen Rowe (roweji@ucmail.uc.edu) to change your communication preferences. Thank you.

Thank you for your interest in the Center for Addiction Research - our mission is to accelerate scientific progress in the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders and their consequences by fostering research collaborations across: 1) UC departments, colleges, and centers including Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center; 2) Local, regional, and state community and governmental partners; and 3) Other academic institutions and industry."



UC/ Regional News

[Cincinnati.com: Ohio decriminalized fentanyl test strips. Here's why experts say that matters](#)

Public health agencies and advocates in Ohio will no longer be breaking the law when they hand out potentially life-saving fentanyl test strips. Cincinnati.com reported that Governor Mike DeWine signed a bill into law Jan. 3 decriminalizing the paper test strips that detect fentanyl and its analogues in drugs. The law takes effect sometime in April. Tasha Turner-Bicknell, director of public health nursing programs at the UC College of Nursing was one of the experts interviewed for the story. Turner-Bicknell, a board member of Harm Reduction Ohio, told Cincinnati.com it's about time this happened, because the detection strips are a life-saving strategy during an agonizing overdose...

[Experts warn excessive drinking linked to early deaths in younger Americans](#)

CINCINNATI (WKRC) - There's a warning from counselors about how often alcohol is a part of our celebrations. A new study says excessive drinking is linked to early deaths in younger Americans. This study, published in JAMA Network Open found one in five deaths in people 20-49 could be attributed to excessive alcohol. For people 20-64, it was one in eight. Researchers say that means this now makes alcohol one of the leading causes of preventable death. As part of the study, researchers looked at deaths linked to alcohol. That included car accidents, alcohol poisoning, and other health impacts, such as liver disease. They found deaths fully attributed to alcohol have risen in the past...

Montgomery County ADAMHS receives grant for mental health and addiction services

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Ohio (WKEF) -- Montgomery County ADAMHS is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a \$869,427.74 grant from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS). The funds are a part of the State Opioid Stimulant Response Grant (SOS) 3.0. A key initiative of the grant is to fund programs in collaboration with the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine to provide residents in the Psychiatry Program with training opportunities. These opportunities include the evaluation and management of all substance use disorders, with a focus on the growing community epidemic of opioid and stimulant use disorders. "The...

Drug addiction: Help is available

Drug addiction can destroy lives, tear families apart, and have far-reaching effects on a community. But help can be found here in Brown County, and recovery from substance abuse disorder is possible. Among the biggest problems Brown County faces today is drug addiction. An increase in illegal drug activity in Brown County has placed more weight on the shoulders of the local law enforcement agencies and the county court system with more than half of the criminal cases coming through the local courts involving illegal drug possession or trafficking. Those working at local substance abuse disorder treatment facilities have their hands full with efforts to help those in need of treatment. Even...

Student: Ohio's GOP governor backing of Columbus Dems in fight for kids reason to hope

We don't need to look far to be reminded that politics can be pretty dysfunctional. But here in Columbus over the past few weeks, I've seen something different: bipartisan leadership standing up against a powerful industry — on behalf of kids like me. In December, the seven members of Columbus City Council and Mayor Andrew J. Ginther, all politically progressive Democrats, passed a law to end the sale of flavored tobacco. Then, last week, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, a conservative Republican, rescued the Columbus law from a state legislative override. This is very personal to me because, as a high school student, I see the negative impact that flavored tobacco has on young people. When...

Aces of Trades: Lacey Carrel's passion for helping others led to addiction field

LANCASTER – A passion for helping those fighting addiction led Lacey Carrel to her job at The Recovery Center. "Where I grew up I started to look around at classmates and everybody was dying either from drug overdoses, suicide or incarceration," she said. "That was really impactful for everybody around me." Carrel is the treatment services coordinator at The Recovery Center. "My job consists of a variety of things, from handling community partnerships to addressing policy change and truly, director practice," she said. "I do a variety of things when it comes to programming

with community partners, with our referral sources, families, individuals." Carrel is also a counselor who...

DEA: More than 19 million deadly doses of fentanyl seized in Ohio, Michigan in last year

The Drug Enforcement Administration announced Wednesday that the organization had taken seizure of over 50.6 million fentanyl-laced, fake prescription pills and more than 10,000 pounds of fentanyl powder in 2022. In Michigan, Ohio and Northern Kentucky, DEA personnel seized more than 280,000 fentanyl-laced pills and over 600 pounds of fentanyl powder. That equals more than 19 million deadly doses. Fentanyl is the deadliest drug threat facing the country. It is a highly addictive man-made opioid that is 50 times more potent than heroin. Officials said just two milligrams of fentanyl, the small amount that fits on the tip of a pencil, is considered a potentially deadly dose. "In the past year, the...

Gambling addiction hotlines getting more calls since sports gambling legalization in Ohio

CLEVELAND, Ohio (WOIO) - Since the legalization of sports gambling in the State of Ohio, gambling addiction hotlines have seen a massive increase in calls. According to Nabil Pervaiz with Recovery Resources, calls to their hotline and statewide through two weeks have already exceeded the number of calls received in the entire month of January last year. Pervaiz says that the attention given to each person can depend on the situation, however it has meant that accurate staffing is needed to ensure that each call is done well. As sports gambling is fairly new in Ohio, Pervaiz says that education around the addiction is needed. Much of that can be found at the Recovery Resources page...

Louisville hospital offers in-patient medical detox for alcohol and substance abuse

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — The University of Louisville Mary and Elizabeth hospital has an in-patient detox unit where people can start their journey to overcoming their addiction. For about three years, Jessica Baird has worked in the detox unit. She is the nurse manager, helping patients as they part from relying on alcohol and substances. "I've seen a lot of people come through and have custody of their children again, maintain a stable job and living environment, so it's huge to make that change," Baird said. The service is available for anyone 18 and over, and right now, the unit features 14 patient rooms and has the ability to serve 25 patients. "There's not really that stigma..."

Floyd County receives first payment in opioid settlement

FLOYD COUNTY, Ky. (WYMT) - In February 2022, Attorney General Daniel Cameron announced Kentucky would receive \$483 million in an opioid settlement from drug distributors and a manufacturer. Now, nearly a year later, local governments are getting their share of the settlement. "50 percent of the funds are going to go to the

state, they will have an advisory committee that will be directing them on how they're going to spend their 50 percent. The other 50 percent is going to go to local governments," said Floyd County Judge-Executive Robbie Williams. Floyd County recently received its first payment of \$875,000 and officials are forming a committee to determine where the money...

National News

Heavy drinking in young adults tied to endocannabinoid pathway

Although heavy drinking in young adulthood increases the risk for alcohol use disorder (AUD), not all young heavy drinkers go on to develop AUD, globally the most common substance use disorder. Research has shown that individual differences in alcohol sensitivity and cardiovascular responses may predict drinking patterns and progression to AUD. Little is known, however, about the brain-based mechanisms of AUD vulnerability—a better understanding of which could guide preventive interventions against AUD. A new study explores the role of endocannabinoid levels in...

Alcohol-related liver disease rising among young people

Jessica Dueñas was leading a double life. Named Kentucky's teacher of the year in 2019, she had also developed a heavy drinking problem. "The day that I won my award, I was in withdrawals," she said. "I could not wait to go home so that I could drink." Doctors told Dueñas, now 37, she had developed alcoholic liver disease. She needed to stop drinking or she could die. "I was realizing that it was genuinely changing my body, that's when I started to get scared," she said. Alcoholic liver disease kills about 22,000 Americans every year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and...

Men, but not women, drink beer more rapidly when they experience pain, study finds

A study in a virtual reality bar setting assessed the effects of being subjected to painful heat on alcohol consumption. Results showed that men decreased intervals between sips of the alcoholic drink, but did not drink more in each sip. They only drank more rapidly. Women, on the other hand were not affected. The study was published in *Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology*. Chronic pain is a problem experienced by about 20% of people in the United States. Estimates of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention see chronic pain issues inflicting \$560 billion dollars in health care and...

To Fight Alcohol Addiction, We Need More Than a Dry January

In 1942, the Finnish government, engaged in a bitter struggle against the Soviet Union, came up with a novel idea to keep its people in fighting shape: For one month, it asked the nation's entire adult population to abstain from drinking. Which month? That was the easy part: January, the very beginning of the year, and a time of resolutions and challenges, and change. Some seven decades later, a British

woman named Emily Robinson kicked off her new year by signing up for a half marathon. The race was scheduled for February, so she took a page from the history books and decided to try going...

Study shows SMART Recovery holds potential to help LGBTQ population with alcohol, substance use

People looking for help in reducing their alcohol and other substance use often turn to 12-step programs. But while research shows that LGBTQ individuals are more likely to struggle with substance use issues than their peers, they also often face barriers to engaging in traditional treatment programs. A trial by University of Kansas researchers has found that SMART Recovery, a cognitive-behavioral mutual help group for addictive behaviors, holds potential for addressing LGBTQ-specific concerns with treatment and may be an effective part of recovery, though improvements can still be made. KU...

The Cannabis Community Sees the World Differently

In my recent book, *Marijuana on My Mind: The Science and Mystique of Cannabis*, I looked beyond the objective facts about cannabis and its interactions with the brain discovered by science. I contrasted this objective perspective with the equally important subjective experience of using cannabis, especially recreationally and socially. Cannabis users directly sense a profound shift in the texture of their experience. I am indebted to Michael Pollan for this exquisite phrase, which he coined in *The Botany of Desire* to encompass a range of mystical-like alterations in consciousness many cannabis...

The Unfulfilled Promise of Cannabis for Cancer-Related Symptoms

There is a stark contrast between the excitement and promise surrounding the therapeutic use of cannabis -- defined here as any product derived from the plant *Cannabis sativa*, such as tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) or cannabidiol (CBD) or others -- and its clinical application for cancer patients seeking relief from their symptoms. Pain, nausea, anxiety, lack of appetite, fatigue, or poor sleep plague many patients; they often overlap, and frequently persist. As a result, there is an enormous need and interest in finding new and effective ways to treat the symptoms. The available pharmaceutical therapies can help...

Study refutes industry claims that ban on menthol cigarettes leads to increased use of illegal smokes

A new research study has found that banning menthol cigarettes does not lead more smokers to purchase menthols from illicit sources, contradicting claims made by the tobacco industry that the proposed ban of menthol cigarettes in the U.S. by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will lead to a significant increase in illicit cigarettes. Researchers at the International Tobacco Control (ITC) Policy Evaluation Project at the University of Waterloo evaluated the impact of federal and provincial

menthol cigarette bans in Canada by surveying smokers of menthol and non-menthol cigarettes before and after...

Long-Term Solutions for How to Quit Vaping

If you've ever tried to quit vaping, then you know how challenging it can be. Although research published in July 2022 in JAMA Network Open found a slight decrease in overall e-cigarette, or vaping, users, daily e-cigarette use by current users rose from 34.5% in 2017 to 44.4% in 2020. The daily usage is likely linked to dependence on the nicotine in e-cigarettes, according to the researchers. The FDA and the American Lung Association agree that vaping is at epidemic proportions among young people, which include middle- and high-schoolers. A 2022 survey from the FDA and Centers for Disease Control...

Pharmacists can start patients on road to recovery from opioid use disorder, study shows

PROVIDENCE, R.I. [Brown University] — A study from researchers at Brown University, Rhode Island Hospital and the University of Rhode Island found that pharmacists — not just physicians at clinics and doctor's offices — can safely and effectively start patients with opioid use disorder on the lifesaving medication buprenorphine. "With over 100,000 overdose deaths in 2022 and an opioid crisis impacting states across the country, improving access to buprenorphine is a critical and necessary next step," said Traci Green, lead study author and co-director of Rhode Island Hospital's Center of Biomedical...

Report: Children Under 14 Dying from Fentanyl Poisoning at Faster Rate than Any Other Age Group

Children under age 14 are dying from fentanyl poisoning at a faster rate than any other age group in the U.S., according to a new analysis from Families Against Fentanyl. In the past two years, synthetic opioid (fentanyl) deaths among children surged. Fentanyl-related deaths among infants (children under age one) quadrupled from 2019 to 2021; more than tripled among children between the ages of 1 and 4 and nearly quadrupled among children between the ages of 5 and 14. Since 2015, fentanyl-related deaths among infants increased nearly 10-fold; among children ages 1 to 14, deaths increased...

The addiction crisis is causing a spike in endocarditis cases. Hospitals are struggling to respond

Increased injection drug use has led to a spike in cases of the life-threatening heart condition endocarditis, with cases rapidly accelerating since the onset of Covid-19. The increased case count is one of the lesser-known side effects of the deadly addiction epidemic. But patients with endocarditis, an inflammation of the heart lining caused by infection, require complex, thoughtful care — care that the U.S. health system is ill-equipped to provide. With drug deaths hovering at an all-time

high and endocarditis cases among drug users up nearly tenfold in the last decade, physicians, researchers, and health...

Supervised consumption sites reduce drug overdoses, disease and deserve government support, say researchers

Since 2016, more than 32,000 Canadians have died from drug overdoses. In response to this overdose epidemic, several provinces have established Supervised Consumption Sites (SCS), which provide people who use drugs with a safe space to administer drugs under the supervision of trained staff. The term people who use drugs is used to affirm people's humanity instead of defining them by their drug use. Person-centered language helps reduce stigma and discrimination which in turn can encourage people who use drugs to seek out harm reduction services. SCSs have proven to reduce...

Oregon Becomes First State To Legalize Magic Mushrooms

On January 1, Oregon legalized the adult use of Psilocybin, often called “Magic Mushrooms,” amid recent research showing tentative promise for treating post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, end-of-life anxiety, and other mental health conditions. However, while research suggests promising results for mental health treatment, there are still concerns about the lasting side effects of Psilocybin misuse, as there is not enough data yet to measure the lasting impacts. Oregon’s Ballot Measure 109, passed in November 2020, allows the Oregon Health Authority to license and regulate the...

Newly Identified Neural Signature of Drug Craving Could Predict Drug Use

Much the same way it’s difficult to quantify pain on a scale of 1 to 10, subjective measures of cravings can be imprecise. This can make it difficult for clinicians trying to help a patient who is abusing a substance to determine the kind of care needed. Now, scientists may have a more accurate tool for measuring cravings: employing a machine learning algorithm, an international team of scientists has identified a brain signature that, in their experiments, distinguished people with substance abuse disorders from people without them with a high degree of accuracy. The finding, published December 19...

For addiction treatment, longer is better. But insurance companies usually cut it short

Access to treatment for addiction has long plagued U.S. health systems. Why? Two reasons: It is expensive, and the long-term value of addiction treatment is often disregarded by insurance companies and other payers. Its dirty little secret is that access to treatments that work are available to the few who can pay for it — as I once needed to do — while millions of Americans get substandard treatment or none at all. From May 2021 to May 2022, more than 103,000 Americans died from drug overdoses. That’s significantly more than the number of U.S. service members who died in the Vietnam War. Yet...

Addressing online gambling harms across sub-Saharan Africa

A new study has reported that governments across Sub-Saharan Africa are struggling to keep pace with the mass expansion of gambling, brought about through online technologies and smartphone apps. An international team, coordinated by the universities of Glasgow, Ghana and Bath, in partnership with the Malawi Epidemiology and Intervention Research Unit (MEIRU), reviewed existing policies in place to regulate the gambling industry across 49 countries. They found that in 41 countries where gambling was legal (of 49 in total), only two published annual reports about its impacts. In 36, no...

Telehealth patients are scrambling for in-person care amid crackdown on online controlled substances

Catherine was getting nervous about her ADHD prescription. In 2022, the 29-year-old New Yorker had started using Done, a direct-to-consumer telehealth company that treats attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. The medication her provider had prescribed, a stimulant called Vyvanse, was helping her manage distraction so severe that she frequently had car accidents. But online, she had started reading about other telehealth patients running into problems getting their ADHD medications. Increasingly, big box pharmacies were cracking down on prescriptions from online-only...

5 Ways "Food Addiction" and Drug Addiction Intersect

It's an open question among researchers whether "food addiction" reaches the level of true addiction, but it's becoming increasingly clear that food addiction at least exhibits many of the same characteristics. I'm an addiction psychiatrist and have made my career in the substance use addiction world, but I've always been intrigued by the parallels we see with food addiction. One of those parallels involves brain chemistry, and, in fact, I discussed this very topic in a paper I co-authored in 2007 called "Addiction to Food and Brain Reward Systems." (More on the brain reward phenomenon below.) Brain...

Funding Opportunities



[PAR-23-076](#)

[NIDA Research Center of Excellence Grant Program \(P50 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[NOT-DA-23-015](#)

[Notice of Early Expiration and Reissue of RFA-DA-22-038, "Accelerating the Pace of Drug Abuse Research Using Existing Data \(R21 Clinical Trial Optional\)"](#)

UC Foundation Funding Opportunities

Please contact Carol Russell at (513) 556-6169 or carol.russell@uc.edu **at least 5 business days before the deadline**, prior to applying to the below opportunities, to ensure coordination and to facilitate assistance with approaches.

[Global Learning for Health Equity Network Invites Proposals for Planning Grants](#)

Deadline: 11:00 AM February 1, 2023 (Letter of Intent Due)

Nonprofit [PATH](#) is a global team of innovators working to accelerate health equity so all people and communities can thrive. PATH seeks innovative research applications for the development of new HIV prevention drugs and strategies, multipurpose prevention technologies (MPTs), and technologies that enable HIV prevention strategy development and have the potential to strengthen capacity in targeted countries. This effort is sponsored by the Microbicide R&D to Advance HIV Prevention Technologies through Responsive Innovation and eXcellence (MATRIX) consortium, and the United States Agency for International Development. Applications are limited to projects with costs of \$150,000 and 18 months. Milestones must drive proposed research, go/no-go criteria, and timelines. They must target the development of HIV prevention for one or more of the following populations: adolescent girls and young women, pregnant and breastfeeding women, and female sex workers. Established researchers, research consortia, students, postdoctoral fellows, and new investigators establishing laboratories and/or seeking tenure from the United States, Kenya, South Africa, and Zimbabwe are encouraged to apply.

[Psychiatric Association Recognizes Outstanding Minority Mental Health Programs](#)

Deadline: February 6, 2023

The [American Psychiatric Association Foundation](#) Awards for Advancing Minority Mental Health provide \$5,000, a plaque, and recognition in APA/APAF publications and websites. Selected mental health and wellness organizations have programs that raise awareness of mental illness in underserved minority communities, the need for early recognition, the availability of treatment and how to access it, and the cultural barriers to treatment; increase access to quality mental health services for underserved minority communities; and improve the quality of care for underserved minority populations, particularly those in the public health system or with severe mental illness. To be eligible, programs and organizations must have been in operation for at least two years.

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